

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 019338

O P 251047Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 713

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2743

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, SU, US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW 4

REF: STATE 278425 (NOTAL)

1. SAW MINSTATE KIBEIDA EARLY NOV 25 PURSUANT REFTEL. I TOLD HIM DEPARTMENT CONTINUED BE MOST APPRECIATIVE RECENT GOS EFFORTS TO FURTHER RELEASE OUR FOUR HOSTAGES. HOWEVER, MORE THAN TWO WEEKS HAD ELAPSED SINCE HE HAD TOLD ME ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE ENROUTE ERITREA TO ARRANGE HOSTAGES' RELEASE (KHARTOUM 2608, NOTAL). IN ABSENCE ANY SUBSEQUENT NEWS, EDNWOYAD ASKED ME REVIEW IN RATHER FUNDAMENTAL WAY STATUS OF RELEASE EFFORTS AS VIEWED BY GOS. WE WISHED EXPLORE ANY INITIATIVES WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL. RECALLING NIMEIRI'S PERSONAL HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IN EARLY RELEASE HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN EARLY OCTOBER (KHARTOUM 2394, NOTAL), I ASKED WHETHER SECOND MESSAGE AT THAT LEVEL MIGHT BE HELPFUL OR WHETHER THERE WERE ANY OTHER INITIATIVES WHICH GOS BELIEVED MIGHT LEAD TO EARLY PROGRESS IN THIS PROTRACTED.

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2. KIBEIDA REPLIED THAT ERITREANS MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT VIEW

OF TIME FROM AMERICANS. HE WAS NOT TOO SURPRISED KAGNEW 2 HAD NOT YET BEEN RELEASED BUT THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE DONE. KIBEIDA NOTED RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT IN BEIRUT PRESS, APPARENTLY VOLUNTEERED BY ELF, THAT SUDAN MEDIATING FOR RELEASE OF HOSTAGES (CF CAIRO 11791, NOTAL). HE SPECULATED THIS MIGHT FORM PART OF PREPARATIONS FOR RELEASE. KIBEIDA SAID ARTICLE HAD CONTAINED ASSURANCE HOSTAGES ARE IN GOOD HEALTH AND DENIAL THAT ELF SEEKING RANSOM. KIBEIDA SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED PUBLIC SECURITY CHIEF ABDUL WAHAB TO PASS WORD TO ELF THAT, WITH REFERENCE TO PRESS ARTICLE, ELF WOULD BE WELL ADVISED NOW REPEAT NOW RESPOND BY DOING WHAT GOS HAD ASKED THEM, NAMELY RELEASE HOSTAGES. HOWEVER, MATTER WAS DELICATE AND TOO MUCH PRESSURE MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

3. AGREEING THAT ERITREANS AND AMERICANS MIGHT WELL HAVE DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF TIME, I URGED DUE ACCOUNT BE TAKEN OF AMERICAN PERCEPTION BY THOSE SEEKING ASSIST US IN THIS MATTER. DEPT HAD REPLIED PROMPTLY AND IN FORTHCOMING FASHION TO ZAYN'S REQUEST FOR SOME KIND OF POST-RELEASE STATEMENT (STATE 259421, NOTAL) WHICH KIBEIDA HAD HIMSELF THOUGHT WOULD FACILITATE EARLY RELEASE KAGNEW 2. KIBEIDA SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH ABUDUL WAHAB WHAT FURTHER MIGHT BE DONE BOTH IN TERMS EXERCISING SUDAN'S LEVERAGE AND SIMPLY IN OBTAINING PROGRESS REPORT ON STATUS CASE. HE INDICATED ELF "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE" PROBABLY STILL DISCUSSING CASE INSIDE ERITREA BUT SAID HE WOULD ENDEAVOR CONFIRM.

4. COMMENT: FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED KHARTOUM 2608, IT WAS LOGICAL SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE RESULTS ERITREAN DELIBERATIONS BECAME KNOWN HERE (ALL COMMUNICATIONS ARE BY RUNNER). SINCE THIS TIME LIMIT NOW EXCEEDED, HOWEVER, BELIEVE DEPARTMENT'S INQUIRY MOST TIMELY IN REMINDING SUDANESE OF OUR CONTINUING CONCERN RE PROMPT RESOLUTION THIS CASE. INCIDENTALLY, WE HAVE NOT SEEN PRESS ARTICLE TO WHICH KIBEIDA REFERRED BUT ASSUME, BASED ON CAIRO 11791, IT APPEARED IN BEIRUT PAPER NOVEMBER 18-19. IF BEIRUT ABLE LOCATE, WOULD BE USEFUL HAVE FULL TEXT.

4. AS INDICATED THROUGHOUT OUR REPORTING, BELIEVE SUDANESE EFFORTS LIKELY PROVE MORE PRODUCTIVE VIS-A-VIS KAGNEW 2, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALTHOUGH RELEASE LATTER SHOULD ITSELF INCREASE PRESSURE ON PLF TO LET CISCO 2 GO.
BREWER

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